

EASTER 2022

# Devotional Guide



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## Palm Sunday, April 10 - Introduction

### WONDER-WORKING-POWER!

God's children have been singing these words more than 100 years:

There is pow'r, pow'r, wonder-working pow'r  
In the blood of the Lamb;  
There is pow'r, pow'r, wonder-working pow'r  
In the precious blood of the Lamb.\*

The great truths and results of these few words stir my heart. They let us sing of the compassion and selfless love of our Savior and Redeemer, the Lamb of God who willingly sacrificed His life so we can live now *and forever*.

It has been said that the greatest miracle recorded in the Bible is the conception and birth of God's Son, Jesus. AND that the second greatest miracle is the resurrection of Jesus from the tomb. Indeed, these power-filled occurrences change who we are!

The Gospels are full of stories of Jesus, the Son of Man, living among people in His last three years of life. He performed *signs and wonders* everywhere He went ... *miracles* of unconditional love and care. *At least 37 are recorded*. For this year's Easter Devotional Guide, we are honoring families with preschoolers and children. The writers have prepared their devotions about Jesus and His miracles especially so that people of every age can read the stories together. Consider how our congregation listens intently and responds to the Children's Sermons on Sundays! Sometimes God's Wonder-Working-Power captures our attention in unique ways.

P.S. One more feature of the Easter Devotional Guide: When you complete the devotionals, keep "scrolling down." Our service group chair, Helen Owens, assembled a few interesting thoughts about Miracles throughout the Bible. You will be glad you read beyond the stories, being reminded of the power of the Almighty God of Bible times who worked in miraculous ways. AND. STILL. DOES.

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### Writer: Martha Kirkland

*Martha has been a member of NFBC for 37 years, serving through the Music Ministry and other opportunities. She is a member of the Encouragers class and especially celebrates three generations of Kirklands at Nashville First. She loved her 22 years at Lifeway as a Music Consultant.*

\* Words and music by Lewis E. Jones, 1899



Monday – April 11 - John 2:1-11

## Just Do It

*This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him. (John 2:11)*

Does your mother ever tell you things to do? Often they are simple tasks like, “brush your teeth, change your clothes, or mind your manners.” Mothers give wise advice. When Mary, Jesus’ mother, saw a need at the wedding, she said to Jesus: “They have no more wine!” She told the servants: “Do whatever He tells you.”

- 1. GO to Jesus.** Mary went to find Jesus because there was no wine. She knew that Jesus could help. We can take our cares to HIM. He will help us.
- 2. LISTEN to Jesus.** He’s never wrong, and He leads us in the right direction. We listen to Jesus today through the Holy Spirit as we read the Bible.
- 3. DO whatever Jesus says.** Verse 5 also tells us that WHATEVER Jesus says—which means anything and everything He tells us to do—that’s what we should do.

When we ask Jesus about what we should say or do, we can trust His answer completely and follow Him by faith. Sometimes we make things complicated when all we have to do is GO, LISTEN, and DO. As NIKE reminds us, we should all JUST DO IT!

Jesus’ first miracle met a need in daily life. He met a need and provided better than the master of the wedding expected. This wine was the best! Only God could do such a thing. This was a miracle! *“This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him” (John 2:11).*

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### Writer: Di Ann Perry

*Di Ann, Claude, and Nathan Perry joined NFBC shortly after moving to Lebanon six years ago. Di Ann is semi-retired after teaching more than 40 years, mostly in elementary grades and some college courses. She is a member of the Encouragers Connect Group, Sanctuary Choir, Keyboards at Christmas, and the Giving Grows prayer committee. She also works in VBS and in the Music and Arts Camp.*



Tuesday – April 12 - John 5:1–9

## To Be Made Well

*<sup>2</sup>Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. <sup>3</sup>In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. <sup>4</sup>for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and stirred the water: whoever stepped in first after the stirring of the water was healed of whatever disease he had <sup>5</sup>One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. <sup>6</sup>When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be healed?” <sup>7</sup>The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.” <sup>8</sup>Jesus said to him, “Get up, take up your bed, and walk.” (John 5:2-8)*

He waited. He waited for 38 years. Or you could say he waited four hundred fifty-six months—or *one thousand nine hundred seventy six weeks*. Or, he waited for *thirteen thousand eight hundred seventy days*. Or, he waited for *three hundred thirty two thousand eight hundred eighty hours*.

He waited. He waited to be made well. Then Jesus came.

Every day for 38 years, a man who could not walk waited by a pool called Bethesda near the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem. He waited with others who were blind, who could not walk, or who could not even move. They all believed that if God would stir the water in the pool, and if they could be the first one in the water, they could be made well!

Then Jesus came to Jerusalem for a Jewish festival. He saw the man lying there.

Jesus looked at the man and asked, “Do you want to get well?”

Did he want to get well? Hadn't he waited by the pool for 38 years because he wanted to be made well? As an answer, the man explained that he could never get to the pool before other people had already done so.

His wait was over. Jesus simply said, “Get up, pick up your mat, and walk.”

Instantly the man was well. It was that simple. He could walk. With Jesus there was no waiting. He spoke and it was done.

We do not have to wait for Jesus. Jesus is waiting for us. He waits every year, every day, and every hour for people to tell Him they want to be made well from their sin. And every person who sincerely wants salvation will instantly be made well.

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### Writer: James Hargrave

*James has been a member of Nashville's First for more than 20 years. He teaches a Connect Group of girls and boys every Sunday morning. He worked at LifeWay for 25 years before “retiring” to work full-time with Special Education kids and part-time as a professional magician. James lives with Sharon, his wife of almost 50 years in Franklin, TN.*



Wednesday – April 13 - John 6:5–13

## Feeding the 5000

*<sup>5</sup> Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?” <sup>6</sup> He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. <sup>7</sup> Philip answered him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little.” <sup>8</sup> One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, <sup>9</sup> “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?” <sup>10</sup> Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. <sup>11</sup> Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. <sup>12</sup> And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, “Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost.” <sup>13</sup> So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. (John 6:5-13)*

Think about all the places you have eaten a meal in the last week. Maybe you ate at home, at school, at church, at a restaurant, at a friend’s house, outside at a picnic table, or even in your car!

Recently, at Bible Drill here at Nashville First, Mrs. Mary and Mrs. Shannon prepared pancakes, sausage links, and strawberries for the Bible drillers’ lunch. Mrs. Shannon scooped batter from a big bowl onto the griddle. She flipped two pancakes onto each child’s plate. Some children put butter on their pancakes; some did not. Everyone liked the syrup. When Mrs. Shannon ran out of batter, guess what? Mrs. Mary brought more, and there were pancakes for everyone!

John 6:5-13 tells about a time when a crowd of at least 5000 people gathered to hear Jesus teach about God. After a while, everyone was hungry, but there was no food. One of Jesus’ disciples, Andrew, said to Jesus: “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two small fish.” Jesus knew what to do, and His disciples followed His instructions.

Jesus took the boy’s lunch and thanked God for it. He gave the lunch to the disciples, who shared it with the hungry people. The Bible says that everyone had as much as they wanted, and then the disciples gathered up 12 baskets of leftovers!

Can you imagine sharing one hot dog with everyone at a basketball game? It’s just not humanly possible to feed 5000 people with one lunch. But Jesus did it. When Jesus performed miracles like feeding 5000 people, everyone knew that He (and God) could do amazing things. When you enjoy your lunch today, thank God for all the amazing things He can do.

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### Writer: Joy Fisher

*Joy Fisher has been a member at Nashville First since she was a teenager. She and David are active in the Open Door connect group. She loves teaching Bible Drill on Sundays and Mission Friends on Wednesday nights. They have three children.*



Thursday, April 14 - John 6:16–21

## Wonder on the Water

*<sup>16</sup> When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, <sup>17</sup> got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. <sup>18</sup> The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. <sup>19</sup> When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were frightened. <sup>20</sup> But he said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid.” <sup>21</sup> Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going. (John 6:16-21)*

One summer day my nephew stood looking at a toy floating in the middle of the pool. He said, “I wish I could walk out on the water and get that toy.” This prompted me to tell him about the time Jesus and Peter walked together on the water. Immediately, both nephews began to reenact the story in the pool—climbing aboard a pool float “boat” and screaming with delight as I rocked it and splashed them in a mock “storm.” At the height of the “storm,” the younger nephew pointed and yelled: “Ah-hhh! It’s a ghost! No wait, it’s JESUS!” Then his brother climbed off the raft, began walking across the pool, held his nose, and sank below the surface of the water.

But as he went down, his free arm was up, anticipating what he knew was coming—Jesus was going to rescue him! Even as a young child, he’d already learned an important truth. Jesus is the rescuer! When the storms of life hit hard and threaten to pull us under, we have a Rescuer! Jesus is the One who saves. Jesus is the One who can calm the storm. Jesus alone is worthy of our worship!

As you read this incredible Bible story, may it come alive and point you to the wonder of who Jesus is!

People followed Jesus everywhere He went. After a long day of teaching, healing the sick, and feeding the 5,000 near the Sea of Galilee, Jesus said goodbye to the crowds and sent His disciples ahead of Him in a boat. Then He went up on a mountain to pray.

Late at night, the disciples’ boat was far from shore. The winds began to blow and the water grew rough and choppy. The waves beat against their boat. They were frightened.

*Read aloud more of this exciting story in Matthew 14:22-33.*

After Jesus rescued Peter, they got back into the boat. Immediately the wind stopped. Everything was calm. Not only could Jesus walk on water, He could control the wind and the waves! The disciples were amazed. They worshiped Jesus and said, “It’s true! You really are the Son of God!”

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### Writer: Melita Thomas

*Melita Thomas can be found teaching kindergartners and singing in the choir on Sunday mornings and teaching children’s choir on Wednesday nights. She also serves on the Personnel and Pastor Search committees. Melita loves her church, her nephews, her kitty cat, and her Nashville Predators.*



Friday, April 15 - John 9

## Blind from Birth

*As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. (John 9:1-3)*

There once was a man who couldn't see. He was born blind. He couldn't see trees. He couldn't see houses. He couldn't see his friends or his family. (Feel free to close your eyes for a minute and image what that would be like.)

Jesus and His 12 helpers saw this man as they were walking down the road one day. As they passed the blind man, they asked a question: “Jesus, who sinned? Was this man born blind because he disobeyed God, or was this man born blind because his parents disobeyed God?”

Jesus quickly answered, “Neither! This man wasn't born blind because of anyone's sin. This man was born blind so everyone could see how big and great God is!” Jesus then performed a miracle, something only God could do. He bent low to the ground, spit on the dirt, and scooped up a little mud into his hands. He squished it between his fingers and gently smeared it over the man's eyes.

Then Jesus said to the man, “Go and wash at the pool of Siloam where the water flows from a fresh spring. The man heard Jesus, he found his way to the water, and he washed. As the mud washed away from his eyes, the blind man became the seeing man! He could see trees. He could see houses. He could see his friends and his family!

Everyone in town was amazed and somewhat confused. They asked, “How can the blind man now see?” The seeing man answered, “I don't know who he is. I don't know how it worked. I do know one thing. I was blind but now I see!” Later that day, Jesus found the seeing man. The man saw Jesus! He believed, and he worshipped Him.

Friends, what can we learn?

1. We don't need to know why people are hurting before we help people them. Be like Jesus and help.
2. We can all be blind to the sin in our lives because sometimes we don't like what we see. Be like the seeing man. Listen to Jesus, choose to obey, and believe.
3. Know that our God is mighty. He can do big things. He helped the blind man. He can help you, too.

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### Writer: Shannon Meadors

*Shannon Meadors is Minister to Children at Nashville First. She is married to Kyle Meadors. (Best husband EVER!) They have two children, Jacob (17) and Ava Lauren (14) and have been members at First for 12 years. Shannon's favorite things are cheering on our kids, soaking up sunshine, and getting to tell First Kids about Jesus! Easter is her favorite holiday.*



Saturday, April 16 - John 11:1-44

## The Voice with Power over the Grave

*Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup> But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." (John 11: 1-3)*

"Where is He?" Martha asked Mary. "He'll be here," Mary replied. "But when? Our brother hasn't opened his eyes all day. And his color is getting worse."

"Soon," Mary replied, worried that Lazarus's breathing was becoming more strained. "I know He loves us. He loves Lazarus. Why is He taking so long?"

Night crept in, and Jesus still hadn't come. It would soon be too late. Why, oh, why? And then ... Lazarus died. Jesus hadn't come. All of their faith had been for nothing. The funeral was over. Lazarus was in the tomb. Jesus hadn't come.

Four days later, the word came. He was on His way! Martha ran to meet Him. "Oh, Jesus," she wept, "if only you had been here. My brother wouldn't have died." Jesus said, "Lazarus will rise again."

"I know, on the resurrection day I will see him," Martha replied. Jesus looked at her and said, "I am the resurrection. Whoever believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she said. "I believe that you are the Christ."

Then Mary came, her face still red from weeping. She fell at the feet of Jesus and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." Jesus said, "Show me the tomb."

They came to the cave where Lazarus was buried. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." "But Lord," Martha replied. "There will be a horrible smell." Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

When the stone was rolled away, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" And just like that, Lazarus was alive! Alive! Jesus, just by speaking, raised Lazarus from the dead! When all had seemed lost, the impossible had happened – a miracle! There was an explosion of joy!

God's timing is always perfect. It may not fit with our thinking, but His ways are above our ways. God's power is always sufficient. It may not look like what we had hoped for, but His plan is glorious, and it will come to pass. He does, indeed, have it in His hands.

What an awesome God!

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### Writer: Sherry Hunter

*Sherry Hunter has taught 5th grade Sunday School for years and substitutes in the current 4th-5th grade class. She enjoys long-distance bicycle trips and travel to various places around the globe. She has climbed Mount Kilimanjaro and has slept on a field of ice in a pup tent. Sherry's children are Ben, Joey, and Chey; she has three grandsons and one granddaughter.*



Easter Sunday, April 17 - John 20:1-28

## Jesus Is Alive!

<sup>15</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). (John 20:15-16)

There’s something special and exciting when you hunt for Easter Eggs! We love watching you look in obvious places and seeing you search under the couch, behind the door, or inside a drawer. It is so fun to watch you discover something that you knew was hidden ... or watch you try to understand where the missing eggs are when you know they are somewhere close by. What’s it like to find one of the eggs? What is it like when you can’t find the egg? What’s it like when somebody gives you a hint of its where its hidden or helps you find it?

After Jesus was killed on the cross by His enemies, some of his relatives and friends went to cave where He was buried. They realized that the large rock covering His grave had been moved and He was not in the grave. They didn’t know where He had gone. Where do you think He was? How would you feel if you couldn’t find Him?

I know it’s hard to believe, but He was alive, and then He was killed, and then He was alive again. His body wasn’t missing or stolen. He was alive, again! That’s why we celebrate Easter. Someday this will make more sense, but that’s why we sing happy songs and are excited on Easter! Jesus is alive!

I love to hear my two grandchildren play together. They are ages 9 and 4. It’s so cute to hear Kaylee say to her older brother Preston, “Hey Bubba! Help me know how to do this.” The story gets even better when he says, “Hey KayKay. Come over here and let me show you.” Their eyes dance with curiosity and their voices bounce with wonderment. You have your own version of being proud and connected to your grandchildren, children, nieces or nephews, or kids of family friends.

Read John 20 with your children. For now, remind children that we are happy that Jesus was alive and that His family and friends saw and talked to Him. They were so excited and happy and we can be, too.

Help children enjoy Easter without having to explain the hard-to-understand details of the Resurrection story that you have figured out as an adult and the joyful promise it holds for us. We know that “*God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*” (John 3:16)

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### Writer: Tony Rankin

*Tony and Amber Rankin have three married children and two grandchildren. Tony is a clinical therapist with a private practice. He is also Minister of Pastoral Care at Nashville First Baptist.*



## Clusters of Miracles!

*For you are great and do marvelous deeds; you alone are God (Psalm 86:10).*

In everyday conversation, “miracle” is often used to describe “an extremely outstanding or unusual event, thing, or accomplishment” (Merriam-Webster). In the Bible, however, a miracle is something only God can do. He made the laws of nature, and only He can make exceptions to them. (Do we even notice how amazing it is that the sun comes up in the morning and daffodils appear in the spring?) Recorded miracles show that God is Creator, powerful, loving, good, holy, but also just. They show the glory of God, that He is the one true God, and that His messengers were speaking truth.

Throughout the Bible, His people remembered and recounted the great miracles and taught them to their children.

Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name;  
make known his deeds among the peoples! ...  
Remember the wondrous works that he has done,  
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered, ... (From Psalm 105)

Creation out of nothing is certainly a miracle! The great flood – another amazing event. God loves, blesses, and is patient, but He is also just. Noah was the only righteous man in a corrupt and violent world. Judgment came.

Some characteristics of biblical miracles:

- They’re outside the laws of nature. (Think “floating axe head” – 2 Kings 6:5-7.)
- They can be experienced by the senses: sight, hearing, taste, touch, smell.
- They happen quickly (The lame walked immediately, for example.)
- In a miracle of healing, the person may ask to be healed, someone may ask on that person’s behalf, Jesus may have just done it, it may occur at long distance, but always it brings glory to God.
- They sometimes point to something that will be true in God’s kingdom in heaven. (No sickness; no death ...)

Psalms and songs in the Bible praise God for amazing ways He cared for His people. But His miracles were not reserved for the Israelites only. Some Canaanites who saw or heard how His people crossed the Red Sea or crossed the Jordan River believed in Him as the one true God. (Think Rahab.)

In the New Testament, when people saw Jesus’ miracles, they might have recalled similar miracles from the Old Testament, many from the days of Elijah and Elisha. Miracles such as healings, providing food, and raising the dead. Jesus’ miracles would have shown them that He was the long-awaited Christ. He was God’s Son.

Not all the memorable people recorded in the Bible experienced miracles (David, Ruth, Nehemiah, for example). Amazing miracles seemed to occur in clusters throughout Scripture—in the days of Moses, Joshua, Elijah, Elisha, Daniel, during the life of Jesus, and in the days of Peter, Paul, and the early church. But miracles always point to God. Notice that they often cluster at times of new revelations: the Law; the prophets; the Son of God; the early church.

The Exodus		
Moses	c. 1446 – 1406 B.C.	Plagues, Exodus; the people led by cloud and light, fed in the Wilderness; Mt. Sinai and the Ten Commandments
Settling the Promised Land		
Joshua	c. 1406 – 1350 B.C.	Conquest of the land <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God is in charge of victorious battles.</li> </ul>
The Divided Kingdom		
Elijah & Elisha	c. 865 – 800 B.C.	Demonstrate that the God of Israel is superior to Baal (and other idols) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call Israel to return to worshipping God</li> <li>• Includes God's concern for foreigners</li> </ul>
The Babylonian Captivity		
Daniel & friends	c. 620 – 540 B.C.	Living as God's people in a foreign land, God cares for them. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Predictive prophecies</li> </ul>
Birth & Life of Jesus		
	6-4 B.C. – 30 A.D.	Jesus: Born Son of God and Son of Man <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Miracles show the kingdom of God arrived through Jesus' ministry</li> </ul>
Death & Resurrection of Jesus		
	30 A.D.	At His death: the Temple veil was torn from top to bottom, the dead walked, and the sun was dark for three hours. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seen alive by many; ascended to heaven</li> </ul>
Coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost		
	30 A.D.	Came in tongues of fire and a sound like a mighty rushing wind (heard and seen); speaking in other tongues
Spread of the Early Church		
Peter and Paul	30 – 96 A.D.	The Gospel is preached to both Jews and Gentiles. Some miracles of Peter and Paul are similar; several parallel those of Jesus.

## Who Is Jesus?

If you had seen Jesus' miracles, would you have thought: Who is this person? Could this be Elijah? Or John the Baptist? Or one of the prophets? (See Matthew 16:13-17.) Why might they have thought that? Maybe because some of Jesus' miracles reminded them of miracles in their ancient history.

### *Miraculous resurrections:*

Elijah never died. A chariot carried him to heaven as Elisha watched. (2 Kings 2:6-12)	Jesus died, was resurrected, and ascended to heaven as many watched. (Acts 1:9-11)
Elijah had raised a widow's son from the dead. (1 Kings 17:18-24)	Jesus raised a widow's only son from his coffin. (Luke 7:11-17)
	Jesus raised Lazarus from the tomb after he had been dead for four days. (John 11)

### *Miraculous healings:*

When Naaman bathed in the Jordan as Elisha instructed, His leprosy was healed. (2 Kings 5:1-14)	Jesus healed many people of different kinds of ailments. More than once He cleansed lepers. (See Luke 5:12-16.)
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### *Miraculous provisions of food:*

During a drought, Elijah told a Gentile widow that the Lord would provide enough flour and oil to feed her, her son, and Elijah until the God of Israel sent rain. (1 Kings 17:8-16)	When Moses obeyed God in the wilderness; the Israelites were fed for 40 years. (Exodus 16:31-36)	Jesus fed a hungry crowd of over 5000 with five loaves and two fishes. (Mark 6:30-44)
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### *Miraculous control over nature:*

When God parted the Red Sea, Moses led thousands of Israelites across dry land. (Exodus 14:21-22)	Jesus calmed a violent storm (Mark 4:38-41); the frightened disciples said, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" (See Psalm 107.)
When God parted the Jordan River, Joshua led the Israelites across dry ground. (Joshua 4:18)	Jesus (whose name is Latin for the Hebrew name Joshua) walked on the water! (Matthew 14:22-33)
When Elijah was taken to heaven, he and Elisha crossed the Jordan on dry ground. Elisha watched, and then returned on dry ground. (2 Kings 2:6-14)	When Jesus ascended to heaven, He was taken up as people watched. (Acts 1:9-11)

### *Who is Jesus?*

At the transfiguration (Luke 9:28-36; Mark 8:27-30), Peter, James, and John saw Jesus with Moses and Elijah. "And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, "This is my beloved Son: hear him." Who is He, then? The Son of God! The maker of miracles.

# Resurrection Quiz

1. Name two people in the Bible who never died. (Genesis 5:24 and 2 Kings 2:1-18)
2. The Bible records miracles of people raised from the dead in both the Old and New Testaments. Who raised each of the following from the dead?

- The widow of Zarephath's son? (1 Kings 17:17-24)
- The Shunammite woman's son? (2 Kings 4:18-37)
- A curious resurrection after the prophet had died? (2 Kings 13:20-21)
- The widow of Nain's son (Luke 7:11-17)
- Jairus' daughter (Luke 8:40-56)
- Lazarus of Bethany (John 11)
- Various saints in Jerusalem (Matthew 27:50-53)
- Tabitha (Acts 9:36-43)
- Eutychus (Acts 20:7-12)

### 3. How was Jesus' resurrection different?

The resurrections listed above were temporary. All these people died again. Jesus' resurrection is different because He lives today. It is permanent.

*"In fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep"*  
(1 Corinthians 15:20).

What does Jesus' resurrection mean to us? One day we who believe in God's Son will have a permanent resurrection!

*"Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live."* (John 14:19)

*And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. ...*

*For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. So encourage each other with these words.* (1 Thessalonians 4:13,16-18, NLT)

*Devotional Service Group: Martha Kirkland, Judith King, Grace Wilkinson, Helen Owens, chair,  
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